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writer. It is not subtle, not profound, not comprehensive, not far-seeing, but it is clear-sighted, moderate, and expresses the average taste of the average man.

THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA, GETTING MARRIED, THE SHOWING-UP OF BLANCO POSNETT. By BERNARD SHAW. New York: Brentano's, 1911.

Here is the delightful Mr. Shaw again, quite after his usual manner, taking up with lost causes and moral reforms and progressive ideas with all his usual satire, joviality, and good-humor. He has said himself that to be famous meant to be held in the mid-channel of abuse, and the present volume is certainly not likely to lessen his own share of abuse. In the first play he makes not only a strong plea for anti-vivisection,—perhaps the strongest that has yet been made,—but makes a strong plea for anti-vaccination and for anti-operation. Indeed, the whole trade of the surgeon comes under Mr. Shaw's ban. In his delightful preface to *The Doctor's Dilemma* he gives much good advice. One bit is, "Of all the anti-social vested interests the worst is the vested interest in ill health." Another, "Remember that an illness is a misdemeanor and treat the doctor as an accessory, unless he notifies every case to the public health authority." Again: "Do not try to live forever; you will not succeed." "Use your health even to the point of wearing it out. That is what it is for." "Spend all you have before you die and do not outlive yourself."

The strongest play in the volume is "Getting Married," and as usual Mr. Shaw gives us more preface than play on the subject of the revolt against marriage, with chapters on the Inevitability of Marriage, Survival of Sex Slavery, Too Much of a Good Thing (meaning too much family life), Why Statesmen Shirk the Marriage Question, What is to Become of Children, etc.

For those who are interested in Mr. Shaw's theory of social reform the prefaces are invaluable; and those who wish to read a very amusing play, a play that toward the last degenerates into sheer farce, may get a good deal of fun out of "Getting Married." Lesbia, one of Bernard Shaw's typical heroines, is a delightful character, and gains no little sympathy when she replies to the general who asks her if she would not be happier if married to some one, "I dare say I should in a frowsy sort of way, but I prefer my dignity and independence; I am afraid I think this rage for happiness rather vulgar."

The seriousness of Mr. Shaw's convictions does not come out in the play itself, but doubtless he means something, and a century or so from now he will be looked upon as an advance-guard of the new school.

The "Showing-up of Blanco Posnett" is not much of a play, and exists largely to give Mr. Shaw an opportunity to write a long preface on the censorship. This preface is as amusing and delightful as any play Mr. Shaw has ever written. It is futile to condemn Mr. Shaw because he insists on showing up the truth of matters which we prefer, as a rule, to keep hidden. Wise or unwise, he is a moral reformer. He has convictions and a philosophy of life, and he deserves the honor that any serious thinker upon social problems earns. He is as serious as Ibsen, in spite of all the satire, humor, and laughter to which he treats us.